



LEONARD GILBERT

Born in 1990, Leonard Gilbert has been a four time national first prize winner of the Canadian Music Competitions. Currently, he studies at the Jacobs School of Music in Indiana University with distinguished professor Menahem Pressler. His previous teachers include Canadian pianist Patricia Parr.

In 2009 Leonard dazzled audiences and judges of the Canadian Music Competition in Montreal and was awarded first prize in the national final (age twenty-five category). As a result of his exceptional achievement, Leonard was also awarded a special honorary distinction from the Mayor of Markham and the Canadian House of Commons. Among his numerous awards, Leonard's most notable achievements include prize winner for the "Best Performance of a Romantic Work" at the Toronto Symphony Orchestra Competition (2009), Rose Bowl and Grand Prize winner of the President's trophy at the Kiwanis Music Festival (2008), winner of the Chopin trophy and Grand Prize at the Markham Music Festival (2008), and second prize winner at the World Piano Competition in Cincinnati, Ohio (2006).

Leonard's poetic and insightful playing has led him to perform extensively at concerts in Canada and abroad. He was spotlighted on Rogers's television in summer 2009, and was featured in the Rising Stars concert of the Toronto Summer Music Festival. In 2008, Leonard performed the Schumann Piano Concerto at George Weston Recital Hall, Toronto Center for the Arts, Stratford Music Festival, and was also invited to perform a solo recital at Baptist University in Hong Kong, China. In 2007, he was a featured soloist with the Esprit Orchestra in Toronto.

In addition to both Music Dean's and Indiana University's Distinction Scholarships, Leonard was recently awarded the Leonard Hokanson Chamber Music Scholarship (2009) from the Indiana University. Leonard is currently a designated Founder's Scholar, one of the highest honours given to undergraduate students.